

Ceremony Report

Engineering Heritage National Landmark

Hay Point No2 Jetty

The view from the Visitors' Lookout at the Port of Hay Point is impressive. The four coal-loading berths - two at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and two at the Hay Point Coal Terminal - and the associated massive coal stockpiles with their stackers, reclaimers and stacker/reclaimers, give witness to the valuable part this site plays - and has played for over 40 years - in Australia's economy.



Caption: The four loading berths at Hay Point, with coal stockpiles in the foreground.

It was at this place on Friday 14 June, 2013 that some 40 guests gathered to witness the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, unveil an Engineering Heritage National Landmark for the Hay Point No2 Coal-Loading Jetty.

Among the guests at the function were the Mayor Diedre Comerford and deputy-Mayor Mr Kevin Casey of Mackay Regional Council, Mr Tim Mulherin MP, State Member for Mackay, Mr Brad Fish CEO and Mr Jeff Stewart-Harris deputy-CEO of North Queensland Bulk Ports, Mr Paul Smith, Deputy Director of Department of Transport and Main Roads, Messrs Uffe Hansen, Adrian O'Neill and Doug Brown of the jetty's constructors JohnHolland/Christiani & Nielsen Joint Venture, and Mr John McRobert of Utah Development Company who commissioned the jetty's construction.

Engineers Australia Queensland representatives present included Simon Orton, President (and BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance representative), Ian McEwan Executive Director and Ms Lesley Schneider Executive Assistant, Paul Coghlan and Brian McGrath PSM from

Engineering Heritage Queensland, Peter Foley, Chair, and other members of the Mackay Regional Group.



Caption: Uffe Hansen, Adrian O'Neill and Doug Brown inspect the photo display of the jetty's construction

The early 1970s design of the No2 coal-loading jetty featured a system not previously utilized, where the concrete caissons forming the jetty and its mooring dolphins were constructed in Mackay Harbour and then towed, complete with their steelwork for loading the coal, the 26 sea-miles to Hay Point and sunk onto the prepared sea-bed. This form of construction saved the down-time that would have resulted from sea conditions during on-site construction and prevented disrupting operations at the No1 jetty.

After Mayor Comerford welcomed the Governor and guests to the Mackay Region which, she pointed out, is the third most significant contributor to Queensland's economic well-being, Engineering Heritage Queensland Chair Andrew Barnes also welcomed the guests and gave an overview of the Engineering Heritage Recognition Program and thanked Paul Coghlan the Queensland Engineering Heritage Panel member who carried out the necessary research for this Award.

Her Excellency delivered her inspiring and complimentary address, acknowledging the very real debt owed by Queensland to the enterprise and ingenuity of engineers, as was exemplified by this National Engineering Landmark.

Rendell & Partners engineer Alistair Eddie, who, with Alex McKnight, designed the jetty, spoke of the discussions and considerations that led to the choice of the design, and he played special tribute to all who had been involved in bringing the novel project to fruition.

The jetty was originally designed for 120 000dwt ships, but increasing the caissons' ballast and updating the fenders in the years since it was put into service in 1975, has resulted in its now comfortably handling 250 000dwt vessels.

Mr Eddie mentioned how in the years following WWII, he and many other overseas engineers came to Australia for major infrastructure projects like the Snowy Mountains Scheme, whereas now Australia was a major exporter of engineers to the rest of the world.



Caption: Alistair Eddie addresses the guests (photo courtesy Tara Kafashzadeh, Mackay Regional group)



Caption: Alistair Eddie, Andrew Barnes, Her Excellency, Ian McEwan, Simon Orton and Diedre Comerford at the unveiled Marker and Interpretation Panel

Simon Orton, Engineers Australia President and BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance representative in thanking the Governor for her presence, spoke in glowing terms of how smoothly the Port worked today. From his Company's point of view, he saw an assured future for its mining and export of the metallurgical coal that it produces for world markets.



Caption: After the unveiling ceremony, Engineer Paul Coghlan (2nd from left) discusses details of the project with Simon Orton, Her Excellency and Alistair Eddie.

There is presently a fifth berth under construction at the Port, which, on completion in a couple of years time, will take the Port of Hay Point's capacity to 140 million tonnes per annum, making it one of the world's largest coal export ports.

Text & photos (except where noted) by BL McGrath, PSM.

Note that copies of other documents pertaining to this Heritage Recognition site are included in this database.

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